

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

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**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

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## **Washington's Ranking Drops in Vehicle Theft Rating**

According to the recent release of 2003, vehicle theft data by the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), Washington dropped from number five to number 6 in the nation in vehicle thefts. Washington's theft rate dropped from 6.67 to 6.62 per 1,000 inhabitants. This may see like a very small decline, but is a reversal of historical annual increases.

2004 year to date, Washington State Patrol (WSP) detectives assigned to the Criminal Investigation Division's 3 Regional Auto Theft Units have recovered 469 stolen vehicles, 31% increase over this time last year. The dollar value of the vehicles recovered is \$4,549,290. WSP auto theft detectives have also made 186 auto theft-related arrests in 2004, a 71% increase. In addition to the 186 arrests, 142 additional arrest warrants have been issued for auto theft related crimes as well.

For more information about the WSP Regional Auto Theft Units in your area, please contact Criminal Investigation Division Lieutenant Wes H. Rethwill or Government and Media Relations Captain Jeff DeVere.

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